Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, On March 21, 1949, Richard "Dick" R. Hermann was brought into this world and spent his youth living and growing up at Lesterville, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, On June 1, 1966, Dick began serving his country in the United States Navy; and,

Whereas, Dick's naval service took him to Vietnam where he served with Task Force 116 River Section 542 and 535, having been stationed at NhaBe, VinLong, MyTho, CanTho, ChauDoc, and BinhThuy; and,

Whereas, Dick endured serving on the Cambodian border during the Tet Offensive in 1968, alongside the Navy SEALS and the Green Berets when they came under fire and remained for 36 hours; and at the end of his tour, Dick remained the only survivor of that four-man gunboat crew; and,

Whereas, After rotating back in July 1968, Dick returned to Vietnam in December 1968 on the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier and again was challenged when a fire on board resulted in the loss of numerous shipmates' lives; and,

Whereas, Dick returned to the United States the summer of 1969 and was discharged in February 1970 at the age of 20; and,

Whereas, Dick deservingly has been presented with many commendations, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation with Valor Devise, Gold Star and National Defense Service Medal, to name a few; and,

Whereas, Dick continued to serve and defend our country nationally and internationally through the Naval Reserve, which brings us here today as we sincerely thank and commend Dick for his years of service and wish him the best in his retirement for a job well done:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 15, 2006, as

DICK HERMANN DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State